New Books in a Bag



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The Boston Girl by Anita Diamant



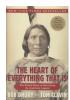
Addie is the spirited daughter of an immigrant Jewish family, born in 1900 to parents who were unprepared for America's effect on their daughters. Addie's intelligence and curiosity take her to a world of short skirts, movies, celebrity culture, and new opportunities for women. From the family's tenement apartment – to the library group she joins – to her first, disastrous love affair – to finding the love of her life, eighty-five-year-old Addie recounts her adventures with humor and compassion for the naïve girl she once was.

Euphoria by Lily King



Set between World Wars and inspired by events in the life of the revolutionary anthropologist Margaret Mead, *Euphoria* is a novel about three anthropologists caught in a love triangle that threatens their careers and their lives. English anthropologist Andrew Bankson has been alone in the field for several years, studying a river tribe in the Territory of New Guinea. Nell and Fen have just fled the bloodthirsty Mumbanyo and are hungry for a new discovery. When Bankson helps Nell and Fen, he ignites a firestorm that burns out of anyone's control.

The Heart of Everything That Is: The Untold Story of Red Cloud by Bob Drury & Tom Clavin



Though he was the only American Indian to defeat the United States Army in a war, the story of the Sioux warrior Red Cloud was, for a long time, lost to history. The authors tell the story of Red Cloud's rise to power during a dangerous, and tragic epoch, when American Indian warriors like Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull battled for the lushest hunting grounds and the prospect of gold and adventure lured men like John Bozeman and Nelson Story to the West.

The Martian by Andy Weir



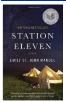
Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded. But Mark isn't ready to give up yet. Drawing on his ingenuity, his engineering skills and a dogged refusal to quit, he confronts one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after another. Will his resourcefulness be enough to overcome the impossible odds against him?

Some Luck by Jane Smiley



On their farm in Denby, Iowa, Rosanna and Walter Langdon abide by time-honored values that they pass on to their five wildly different children: from Frank, the handsome, willful first born, and Joe, whose love of animals and the land sustains him, to Claire, who earns a special place in her father's heart. Each chapter in the novel covers a single year, beginning in 1920, as American soldiers like Walter return home from World War I, and going up through the early 1950s, with the country on the cusp of enormous social and economic change.

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel



Kirsten Raymonde will never forget the night Arthur Leander had a heart attack on stage during a production of *King Lear*. That was the night a devastating flu pandemic arrived in the city, and within weeks, civilization as we know it came to an end. Twenty years later, Kirsten moves between settlements of the altered world with a small troupe of actors and musicians. As the story takes off, moving back and forth in time, vividly depicting life before and after the pandemic, the strange twist of fate that connects them all will be revealed.

Updated 12/14/2015

Complete Books in a Bag Collection



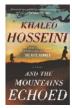
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The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion by Fannie Flagg



Mrs. Sookie Poole of Alabama has just married off the last of her daughters and is looking forward to relaxing. Then she discovers a secret about her mother's past that calls into question everything she ever thought she knew about herself, her family, and her future. She begins a search for answers that takes her to California, the Midwest, and back in time to the 1940s, when an irrepressible woman takes on the job of running her family's filling station. As Sookie learns about the All-Girl Filling Station, she finds new inspiration for her own life.

And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini



In this tale revolving around parents and children, brothers and sisters, and cousins and caretakers, Hosseini explores the ways in which families nurture, wound, betray, honor and sacrifice for one another; and how often we are surprised by the actions of those closest to us, at the times that matter most. Following its characters and the ramifications of their lives around the globe – from Kabul to Paris to San Francisco to the Greek island of Tinos – the story becomes more emotionally complex and powerful with each turning page.

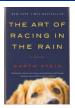
Another Piece of My Heart by Jane Green



This is a story that explores the complications of a woman marrying into a ready-made family and the true meaning of motherhood. Andi has spent much of her adult life looking for the perfect man, and at thirty-seven, she's finally found him. Ethan – divorced with two daughters, Emily and Sophia – is a devoted father and even better husband. Andi embraces the girls like they were her own. But in Emily's eyes, Andi is an obstacle to her father's love, and Emily will do whatever it takes to break her down. When the dynamics between the two

escalate, they threaten everything Andi believes about love, family, and motherhood—leaving both women standing at a crossroad in their lives...and in their hearts.

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein



A heart-wrenching but funny and uplifting story of family, love, loyalty and hope, *The Art of Racing in the Rain* is a look at the wonders and absurdities of human life as only a dog could tell it. Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul, he has educated himself by watching television, and by listening very closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver. Through Denny, Enzo has gained tremendous insight into the human condition, and he sees that life, like racing, isn't simply

about going fast. Using techniques needed on the race track, one can successfully navigate all of life's ordeals.

The Astronaut Wives Club by Lily Koppel



As America's Mercury Seven astronauts were launched on death-defying missions, TV cameras focused on the brave smiles of their young wives. They had tea with Jackie Kennedy, appeared on the cover of *Life*, and quickly grew into fashion icons. Annie Glenn, with her picture-perfect marriage, was the envy of the other wives; platinum-blonde Rene Carpenter was proclaimed JFK's favorite; and licensed pilot Trudy Cooper arrived on base with a secret. Together with the other wives they formed the Astronaut Wives Club. As their

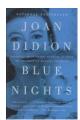
celebrity rose—and as divorce and tragic death began to touch their lives—they continued to rally together. The wives have now been friends for over fifty years.

Bark: Stories by Lorrie Moore



Bark: Stories is a new collection of stories by one of America's most beloved and admired short-story writers – her first collection in fifteen years, since *Birds of America*. In these eight masterly stories, Lorrie Moore, in a perfect blend of craft and bewitched spirit, explores the passage of time, and summons up its inevitable sorrows and hilarious pitfalls to reveal her own exquisite, singular wisdom.

Blue Nights by Joan Didion



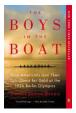
A work of stunning frankness about losing her daughter, this book is a moving account of the author's thoughts, fears, and doubts regarding having children, illness and growing old. As she reflects on her daughter's life and on her role as a parent, Didion grapples with the questions that all parents face, and contemplates her age, something she finds hard to acknowledge, much less accept. *Blue Nights*—the long, light evening hours that signal the summer solstice—is a book of incisive honesty, haunting and profound.

The Boston Girl by Anita Diamant



Addie is the spirited daughter of an immigrant Jewish family, born in 1900 to parents who were unprepared for America's effect on their daughters. Addie's intelligence and curiosity take her to a world of short skirts, movies, celebrity culture, and new opportunities for women. From the family's tenement apartment – to the library group she joins – to her first, disastrous love affair – to finding the love of her life, eighty-five-year-old Addie recounts her adventures with humor and compassion for the naïve girl she once was.

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown



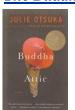
Daniel James Brown tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler at the Olympic games in Berlin. This is an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times.

Brain on Fire by Susannah Cahalan



One day, Susannah Cahalan woke up in a hospital room, unable to move or speak. Only weeks earlier she had been a healthy twenty-four-year old, six months into her first serious relationship, and a sparkling career as a cub reporter. She chronicles the swift path of her illness and the last-minute intervention led by one of the few doctors capable of saving her life. He asked Susannah to draw a simple sketch, which became the key to diagnosing her with an illness now thought to be the cause of "demonic possessions" throughout history.

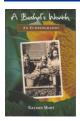
The Buddha in the Attic by Julie Otsuka



A novel by the author of *When the Emperor Was Divine* that tells the story of a group of young women brought from Japan to San Francisco as "picture brides" nearly a century ago. *The Buddha in the Attic* traces the extraordinary lives of these women, from their arduous journeys by boat, to their arrival in San Francisco and their tremulous first nights as new wives; from their experiences raising children who would later reject their culture and language, to the deracinating arrival of war. Julie Otsuka has written a spellbinding novel

about identity and loyalty, and what it means to be an American in uncertain times.

A Bushel's Worth: an Ecobiography by Kayann Short



In this love story of land and family, Kayann Short explores her farm roots from her grandparents' North Dakota homesteads to her own organic farm on the Colorado Front Range. From her century-old farm, Kayann Short shows how small-scale, community supported agriculture borrows lessons from the past to nurture sustainable foodsheds for the future. Short offers an ecological alternative to industrialized agriculture and reunites with her grandmothers' farming traditions as she harvests organic vegetable, raises chickens, and preserves both fruit and fertile land.

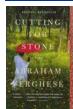
Chief Left Hand by Margaret Coel



This is the first biography of Chief Left Hand, diplomat, linguist, and legendary of the Plains Indians. Working from government reports, manuscripts, and the diaries and letters of those persons—both white and Indian—who knew him, Margaret Coel has developed a closely documented account of his life and the life of his tribe during the fateful years of the mid-1800s. It was in these years that thousands of gold-seekers on their way to California and Oregon burst across the plains. Chief Left Hand was one of the first of his people to

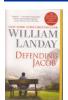
acknowledge the inevitability of the white man's presence and to espouse a policy of adamant peacefulness—if not friendship—toward the newcomers.

Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese



Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon. Orphaned by their mother's death and their father's disappearance, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution. Moving from Addis Ababa to New York City and back again, *Cutting for Stone* is a story of love and betrayal, medicine and miracles—and two brothers whose fates are forever intertwined.

Defending Jacob by William Landay



Andy Barber has been an assistant district attorney in his suburban Massachusetts county for more than twenty years. He is respected in his community, tenacious in the courtroom, and happy at home with his wife, Laurie, and son, Jacob. But when a shocking crime shatters their New England town, Andy is blindsided by what happens next: His fourteen-year-old son is charged with the murder of a fellow student. Every parental instinct Andy has rallies to protect his boy. Jacob insists that he is innocent, and Andy believes him. Yet as damning facts and

shocking revelations surface, as a marriage threatens to crumble and the trial intensifies, as the crisis reveals how little a father knows about his son, Andy will face a trial of his own—between loyalty and justice, between truth and allegation, between a past he's tried to bury and a future he cannot conceive.

The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery



Renee is the concierge of a grand Parisian apartment building, home to members of the great and the good. Over the years she has maintained her carefully constructed persona as someone reliable but totally uncultivated, in keeping, she feels, with society's expectations of what a concierge should be. But beneath this facade lies the real Renee: passionate about culture and the arts, and more knowledgeable in many ways than her employers with their outwardly successful but emotionally void lives. Down in her lodge, apart from weekly visits by her one

friend Manuela, Renee lives resigned to her lonely lot with only her cat for company. Meanwhile, several floors up, twelve-year-old Paloma Josse is determined to avoid the pampered and vacuous future laid out for her, and decides to end her life on her thirteenth birthday. But unknown to them both, the sudden death of one of their privileged neighbors will dramatically alter their lives forever.

The End of Your Life Book Club by Will Schwalbe



This is the inspiring true story of a son and his mother, who start a "book club" that brings them together as her life comes to a close. Over the next two years, they carry on conversations that are both wide-ranging and deeply personal, prompted by an eclectic array of books and a shared passion for reading. Throughout, they are constantly reminded of the power of books to comfort us, astonish us, teach us, and tell us what we need to do with our lives and in the world.

Euphoria by Lily King



Set between World Wars and inspired by events in the life of the revolutionary anthropologist Margaret Mead, *Euphoria* is a novel about three anthropologists caught in a love triangle that threatens their careers and their lives. English anthropologist Andrew Bankson has been alone in the field for several years, studying a river tribe in the Territory of New Guinea. Nell and Fen have just fled the bloodthirsty Mumbanyo and are hungry for a new discovery. When Bankson helps Nell and Fen, he ignites a firestorm that burns out of anyone's control.

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver



Set in the present day in the rural community of Feathertown, Tennessee, this novel tells the story of Dellarobia Turnbow, a petite, razor-sharp 29-year-old who nurtured worldly ambitions before becoming pregnant and marrying at seventeen. Now, after tending to small children on a failing farm, oppressed by poverty, isolation and her husband's antagonistic family, she has mitigated her boredom by surrendering to an obsessive flirtation with a handsome younger man. On her way to a secluded mountain cabin to initiate an affair, she walks into a forested

valley filled with a lake of silent red fire that appears to her a miracle. As a result, Dellarobia finds her path suddenly opening into confrontational engagement with her family, her church, her town, her continent, and finally the world at large.

The Ginseng Hunter by Jeff Talarigo



Set on China's fraught, ruggedly beautiful border with North Korea, Talarigo's novel dramatizes the human faces behind political oppression. A middle-aged Chinese man—whose mother was Chinese and father was Korean—maintains a quiet life gathering the valuable ginseng root. In strict adherence to family traditions, he takes only a single root a day. Once a month he stays overnight in the city of Yanji, at Miss Wong's bordello. On one such trip, he spends the night with a young North Korean refugee who tells a harrowing story of oppression. Alternating with her story is the tale of a North Korean mother and

young daughter who are forcibly separated during famine; the daughter washes up tragically at the gatherer's door, while the mother might or might not be the refugee prostitute.

The Girl Who Fell From the Sky by Heidi W. Durrow



This novel tells the story of Rachel, the daughter of a Danish mother and a black G.I. who becomes the sole survivor of a family tragedy. With her strict African American grandmother as her new guardian, Rachel moves to a mostly black community, where her light brown skin, blue eyes, and beauty bring mixed attention her way. Growing up in the 1980s, she learns to swallow her overwhelming grief and confronts her identity as a biracial young woman in a world that wants to see her as either black or white. It is a winner of the

Bellwether Prize for best fiction manuscript addressing issues of social justice.

Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn



On a summer morning in Missouri, it is Nick and Amy Dunne's fifth wedding anniversary. Presents are being wrapped and reservations are being made when Nick's clever and beautiful wife disappears from their rented McMansion on the Mississippi River. Under mounting pressure from the police and the media—as well as Amy's fiercely doting parents—Nick parades an endless series of lies, deceits, and inappropriate behavior. He is oddly evasive, and definitely bitter—but is he really a killer? With his twin sister, Margo, at his side, Nick stands

by his innocence. Trouble is, if Nick didn't do it, where is that beautiful wife?

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald



The exemplary novel of the Jazz Age, F. Scott Fitzgeralds' book, *The Great Gatsby* (1925), stands as the supreme achievement of his career. The story of fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, of lavish parties on Long Island at a time when, *The New York Times said* "gin was the national drink and sex the national obsession," it is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s that resonates with the power of myth—a novel of lyrical beauty yet brutal realism.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer



Winding up her book tour promoting her collection of lighthearted wartime newspaper columns, Juliet Ashton casts about for a more serious project. Opportunity comes in the form of a letter she receives from Mr. Dawsey Adams. Adams is a member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society—no ordinary book club. It was formed as a ruse and became a way for people to get together without raising the suspicions of Guernsey's Nazi occupiers. From this, Juliet finds inspiration for her work and her life.

The Happiness Project by Gretchen Rubin

the very smallest of changes can make the biggest difference.



Gretchen Rubin had an epiphany one rainy afternoon. In that moment, she decided to dedicate a year to her happiness project. In this lively and compelling account, Rubin chronicles her adventures during the twelve months she spent test-driving the wisdom of the ages, current scientific research, and lessons from popular culture about how to be happier. Among other things, she found that novelty and challenge are powerful sources of happiness; that money can help buy happiness when spent wisely; that outer order contributes to inner calm; and that

The Heart of Everything That Is: The Untold Story of Red Cloud by Bob Drury & Tom Clavin



Though he was the only American Indian ever to defeat the United States Army in a war, the incredible story of the Sioux warrior Red Cloud was, for a long time, lost to history. Bob Drury and Tom Clavin tell the story of Red Cloud's rise to power against the backdrop of an exciting, dangerous, and in many ways tragic epoch, when American Indian warriors like Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull battled for the lushest hunting grounds and the prospect of gold and adventure lured men like John Bozeman and Nelson Story to the West.

The Help by Kathryn Stockett



Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who's always taken orders quietly, but lately she's unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue but now must somehow keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She's full of ambition, but without a husband, she's considered a failure. These three women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South that could forever alter their destinies and the life of a small town...

The House Girl by Tara Conklin



The historical fiction debut by Tara Conklin, is an unforgettable story of love, history, and a search for justice, set in modern-day New York and 1852 Virginia. Weaving together the story of an escaped slave in the pre—Civil War South and a determined junior lawyer, the novel follows Lina Sparrow as she looks for an appropriate lead plaintiff in a lawsuit seeking compensation for families of slaves. In her research she learns about Lu Anne Bell, a renowned prewar artist, whose famous works might have actually been painted by her slave Josephine.

The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty



Finding a letter that says she is to open it only in the event of her husband's death, Cecelia Fitzpatrick is unable to resist reading it. Cecilia is a businesswoman, a pillar of her small community, and a devoted wife and mother. Her life is as spotless as her home. But that letter is about to change everything – and not just for her. There are other women who barely know Cecilia, or each other, but they, too, are about to feel the repercussions of her husband's secret.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot



Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells, taken without her knowledge, became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first "immortal" human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. HeLa cells helped develop a vaccine for polio; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb's effects; helped lead to medical advances like in vitro

fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions.

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd



Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. On Sarah's eleventh birthday, she is given ownership of ten year old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty five years, as both strive for a life of their own.

Just Like Us: the True Story of Four Mexican Girls Coming of Age in America by Helen Thorpe



This is a story of four high school students whose parents entered this country illegally from Mexico as well as a narrative of girlhood, friendship, and the resilience required to transcend poverty. It is also a book about identity – what it means to steal an identity, what it means to have a public identity, what it means to inherit an identity from parents. The reader will look at both the powerful and the most vulnerable members of society as they grapple with the same dilemma: Who gets to live in America?

Labor Day by Joyce Maynard



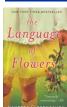
In a manner evoking Ian McEwan's *Atonement* and Nick Hornby's *About a Boy*, Joyce Maynard tells a story of love, sexual passion, painful adolescence, and devastating betrayal as seen through the eyes of a thirteen-year-old boy – and the man he later becomes – looking back on the events of one long, hot, and life-altering weekend.

The Ladies Auxiliary by Tova Mirvis



When free-spirited Batsheva moves into the close-knit Orthodox community of Memphis, Tennessee, the already precarious relationship between the Ladies Auxiliary and their teenage daughters is shaken to the core. In this novel, Tova Mirvis takes us into the fascinating world of the Memphis Orthodox Jews. Warm and wise, enchanting and funny, *The Ladies Auxiliary* brilliantly illuminates the timeless struggle between mothers and daughters, family and self, religious freedom and personal revelation, honoring the past and facing the future.

The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh



Victorian language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions. But for Victoria Jones, it's been more useful in communicating mistrust and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system and unable to get close to anybody, her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. Now eighteen, Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. When forced to confront a painful secret, she must decide whether to risk everything for a second chance at happiness.

The Last American Man by Elizabeth Gilbert



Eustace Conway discovered nature's wonders as a boy growing up in South Carolina during the 1960s. Miserable at home, he took to the woods and developed wilderness skills unknown to most modern Americans. By the time he finished high school and moved into a teepee (his abode for 17 years), he was convinced that only encounters with "the high art and godliness of nature" could help save American society from its wasteful habits and trivial pursuits.

The Light Between Oceans by M. L. Stedman



After four years on the Western Front, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock. To this island, where the supply boat comes once a season, Tom brings a young wife, Isabel. Years later, after two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby's cries on the wind. A boat has washed ashore with a dead man and a living baby. Tom wants to report this immediately. But Isabel insists the baby is a "gift from God," and so they claim her as their own. Two years later Tom and Isabel return to the mainland, finding their choice has devastated others.

Little Bee by Chris Cleave



Little Bee, a young Nigerian refugee, has just been released from the British immigration detention center where she has been held under horrific conditions, after narrowly escaping a traumatic fate in her homeland of Nigeria. Alone in a foreign country, she seeks out the only English person she knows. Sarah is a posh young mother and magazine editor with whom Little Bee shares a dark past. They first met on a beach in Nigeria where Sarah was vacationing, and their brief encounter has haunted each woman for two years. Now together,

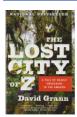
they face a disturbing past and an uncertain future.

Look Again by Lisa Scottoline



Ellen Gleeson was balancing life as a single mother and a reporter as well as could be expected. She had taken on single parenthood voluntarily, having fallen in love with her adopted son, Will, now three, when he was an infant. A have-you-seen-this-child postcard featuring a child who could be Will's twin catches Ellen's attention, and she becomes obsessed with the missing child and with pursuing facts about Will's background Ellen is hell-bent on finding the truth, no matter the cost.

Lost City of Z by David Grann



For centuries Europeans believed the world's largest jungle concealed an ancient civilization, the glittering El Dorado. Captivating the imagination of millions in 1925, British explorer Percy Fawcett ventured into the Amazon with his 21-year-old son, determined to prove that El Dorado – which he dubbed "Z" – existed. Then he and his expedition vanished. After stumbling upon a hidden trove of diaries, David Grann sets out to solve "the greatest exploration mystery of the twentieth century": what happened to Percy Fawcett.

Lost Ravioli Recipes of Hoboken by Laura Schenone



The author undertakes a quest to retrieve her great grandmother's ravioli recipe, reuniting with relatives as she goes. In lyrical prose and delicious recipes, Schenone takes the reader on an unforgettable journey from the grit of New Jersey's industrial wastelands to the dramatically beautiful coast of Liguria—the family's homeland—with its pesto, smoked chestnuts, torte, and, most beloved of all, ravioli, the food of celebration and happiness.

The Lowland by Jhumpa Lahiri



Two brothers born in Calcutta during World War II share a close childhood but separate from one another as adults. Subhash, the older, quieter brother, moves to the US to study marine chemistry. Udayan, the younger and more volatile, stays in India and becomes active in the Naxalite Communist movement. *The Lowland* is a family saga steeped in history: the story of two very different brothers bound by tragedy, a fiercely brilliant woman haunted by her past, a country torn apart by revolution, and a love that endures long past death.

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson



In a small village retired Major Ernest Pettigrew leads a quiet life valuing the proper things Englishmen have lived by for generations: honor, duty, decorum, and a properly brewed cup of tea. Then his brother's death sparks a friendship with Jasmina Ali, a Pakistani shopkeeper from the village. Drawn together by a shared love of literature and the loss of their spouses, the Major and Mrs. Ali find friendship blossoming into something more. Society insists on embracing him as the quintessential local and regarding her as the permanent foreigner. Can

this relationship survive while pursuing happiness in the face of culture and tradition?

The Martian by Andy Weir



Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded. But Mark isn't ready to give up yet. Drawing on his ingenuity, his engineering skills and a dogged refusal to quit, he confronts one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after another. Will his resourcefulness be enough to overcome the impossible odds against him?

Me Before You by JoJo Moyes



Louisa Clark is an ordinary girl living an exceedingly ordinary life—steady boyfriend, close family—who has barely been farther afield than their tiny village. She takes a badly needed job working for ex—Master of the Universe Will Traynor, who is wheelchair bound after an accident. Will has always lived a huge life—big deals, extreme sports, worldwide travel—and now he's pretty sure he cannot live the way he is. Will is acerbic, moody, bossy—but Lou refuses to treat him with kid gloves, and soon his happiness means more to her than she expected. When she learns that Will has shocking plans of his own, she sets out to show him

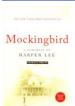
that life is still worth living.

Mennonite in a Little Black Dress by Rhoda Janzen



Not long after Rhoda Janzen turned forty, her world turned upside down. It was bad enough that her husband of fifteen years left her for a guy he met on Gay.com, but that same week a car accident left her injured. Needing a place to pick up the pieces of her life, she packed her bags and returned to her quirky Mennonite family's home, where she was welcomed back with open arms and offbeat advice.

Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee by Charles Shields



The twentieth-century's most widely read American novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, has sold more than thirty million copies. Yet despite the book's popularity, its creator, Harper Lee has become a mysterious figure. Now, after years of research, Charles Shields has brought to life the warmhearted, high-spirited, and occasionally hardheaded woman who gave us two of American literature's most unforgettable characters — Atticus Finch and his daughter, Scout. *Mockingbird* is an evocative portrait of a writer, her dream, and the place and people whom

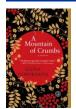
she made immortal.

Moloka'i by Alan Brennert



Rachel Kalama, a spirited seven-year-old Hawaiian girl, dreams of visiting far-off lands like her father, a merchant seaman. Then one day a rose-colored mark appears on her skin and those dreams are stolen from her. Taken from her home and family, Rachel is sent to a quarantined leprosy settlement on the island of Moloka'i. Here her life is supposed to end---but instead she discovers it is only just beginning. This novel is the true-to-life chronicle of people embracing life in the face of death.

A Mountain of Crumbs by Elena Gorokhova



The story of a Soviet girl who discovers the truths adults are hiding from her and the lies her homeland lives by. Born with a desire to explore the world beyond her borders, Elena finds her passion in the complexity of the English language—but in the Soviet Union of the 1960s such a passion verges on the subversive. Elena is controlled by the state the same way she is controlled by her mother: overbearing, protective, difficult to leave. In the battle between a strong-willed daughter and her authoritarian mother, the daughter must break free and leave in

Murder at the Brown Palace by Dick Kreck



On May 24, 1991, one of the most notorious murders in Denver's history occurred. The tale involves high society, adultery, drugs, multiple murders, and more, all set in Denver's grand old hotel. At the center of the storm was the beautiful Denver socialite Isabel Springer. Little did wealthy Denver businessman and politician, John W. Springer, know that Isabel, 20 years his junior, was involved with an out-of-town suitor at the same time she had become cozy with a man he regarded as a friend and business partner. This culminated in a barroom

confrontation, murder, and mayhem – followed by two of the most lurid trials in Colorado history.

Nothing Daunted: the Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West by Dorothy Wickenden

order to survive. It is an elegy to the lost country of childhood, where those who leave can never return.



In 1916 Dorothy Woodruff and Rosamond Underwood left their families in New York to teach school in northwestern Colorado. They lived with homesteaders in the mountains and rode to school on horseback. The young cattle rancher who lured them west promised them the adventure of a lifetime. Decades later, the author and granddaughter of Dorothy Woodruff, found the teachers' letters, which captured the voices of the unforgettable people the women got to know.

Obsessive Genius: the Inner World of Marie Curie by Barbara Goldsmith



Through family interviews, diaries, letters, and workbooks that had been sealed for over sixty years, Barbara Goldsmith reveals the Marie Curie behind the myth—an all-too-human woman struggling to balance a spectacular scientific career, a demanding family, the prejudice of society, and her own passionate nature. *Obsessive Genius* is a dazzling portrait of Curie and her amazing scientific success.

Orange Is the New Black by Piper Kerman



Piper Kerman barely resembles the reckless young woman who delivered a suitcase of drug money ten years before. But the past has caught up with her. Sentenced to fifteen months a federal correctional facility in Danbury, Connecticut, the Smith College alumna is now one of the millions of people who disappear "down the rabbit hole" of the American penal system. Kerman learns to navigate this world, meeting women from all walks of life who surprise her with small tokens of generosity, words of wisdom, and simple acts of acceptance. She offers a

look into the lives of women in prison – why we lock so many away and what happens to them there.

Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline



Nearly eighteen, Molly Ayer has one last chance. Months from "aging out" of the child welfare system and close to being kicked out of her foster home, a community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping her out of juvie and worse. Vivian Daly has lived a quiet life on the coast of Maine, but hidden in trunks are vestiges of a turbulent past. Helping Vivian sort through her possessions, Molly discovers that she and Vivian aren't as different as they seem. Molly discovers that she has the power to

help Vivian find answers to questions that have haunted her – answers that will ultimately free them both.

Paradigm Shift by Bill Ellis



The South does rise again but doesn't look anything like the old one. A high school reunion brings classmates back to a small industrial town in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Furniture factories and knitting mills are long gone, but new ideas from returning classmates rejuvenate the town. In a rich blend of social history, drama, love, passion and determination, Ellis delivers a powerful story about the struggles and perseverance to overcome all odds.

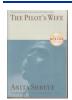
The Paris Wife by Paula McLain



Hadley Richardson is a quiet woman who has all but given up on love until she meets Ernest Hemingway. After their wedding, the pair goes to Paris, where they join a group that includes Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Deeply in love, the Hemingways are ill-prepared for life in Jazz Age Paris. As Ernest struggles to write *The Sun Also Rises*, Hadley strives to hold on to her sense of self. Eventually they find themselves facing the ultimate crisis of their marriage. A heartbreaking novel of love and torn loyalty, all the more poignant

because Hemingway wrote that he would rather have died than fallen in love with anyone but Hadley.

The Pilot's Wife by Anita Shreve



A pilot's wife is taught to be prepared for the late-night knock at the door. But when Kathryn Lyons receives word that a plane flown by her husband, Jack, has exploded near the coast of Ireland, she confronts the unfathomable—one startling revelation at a time. Soon drawn into a maelstrom of publicity fueled by rumors that Jack led a secret life, Kathryn sets out to learn who her husband really was, whatever that knowledge might cost. Her search propels this taut, impassioned novel as it movingly explores the question: "How well can we

ever really know another person?"

Plainsong by Kent Haruf



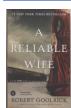
A story of family and romance, tribulation and tenacity, set on the High Plains east of Denver. A high school teacher is confronted with raising his two boys alone after their mother retreats first to the bedroom, then altogether. A teenage girl is pregnant and alone with nowhere to go. And out in the country, two brothers, elderly bachelors, work the family homestead, the only world they've ever known. From these unsettled lives emerges a vision of life, and of the town and landscape that bind them together—their fates somehow overcoming the powerful circumstances of place and station.

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain



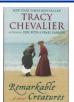
One-third of the people we know are introverts—the ones who prefer listening to speaking, reading to partying; who invent and create but prefer not to pitch their own ideas; who favor working on their own over brainstorming in teams. Often labeled "quiet," it is to introverts we owe many of the great contributions to society—from Van Gogh's sunflowers to the invention of the personal computer. Passionately argued and impressively researched, *Quiet* demonstrates how we undervalue introverts, and how much we lose in doing so.

A Reliable Wife by Robert Goolrick



He placed an advertisement for "a reliable wife" in a Chicago paper. She responded, saying that she was "a simple, honest woman." She was, of course, anything but honest, and the only simple thing about her was her determination to marry this man and then kill him, slowly and carefully, leaving her a wealthy widow, able to take care of the one she truly loved. What Catherine Land did not realize was that the enigmatic and lonely Ralph Truitt had a plan of his own. And what neither anticipated was that they would fall so completely in love.

Remarkable Creatures by Tracy Chevalier



On the fossil-strewn beaches of the English coast, poor and uneducated Mary Anning learns that she has a unique gift: "the eye" to spot fossils no one else can see. When she uncovers a fossilized skeleton in the cliffs near her home, she sets the religious community on edge, the townspeople to gossip, and the scientific world alight. Her challenges only grow when she falls in love with an impossible man. Mary soon finds an unlikely champion in prickly Elizabeth Philpot, a middle-class spinster who shares her passion for scouring the beaches.

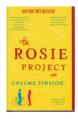
Their relationship strikes a delicate balance and ultimately turns out to be their greatest asset.

Room by Emma Donoghue



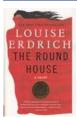
Jack and his mother, who was kidnapped seven years earlier when she was a 19-year-old college student, celebrate his fifth birthday. They live in a tiny, 11-foot-square soundproofed cell in a converted shed in the kidnapper's yard. The sociopath, whom Jack has dubbed Old Nick, visits at night, grudgingly doling out food and supplies. But Ma, as Jack calls her, proves to be resilient and resourceful--and attempts a nail-biting escape.

The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion



Professor of genetics Don Tillman's life is turned upside down when he embarks upon the Wife Project in order to find a suitable mate. When a psychology PhD student named Rosie walks into his office, she's all wrong—her hair is dyed, her clothes are sloppy, she smokes, and she is habitually late. But then again, something is right about her. Don just can't recognize it at first. When Don's career is threatened by his allegiance to Rosie, he must face the toughest puzzle of all—himself. In the end, Don confronts his long-held notions of what it means to love and connect with people, and what it truly means to trust someone.

The Round House by Louise Erdrich



In the spring of 1988 a woman living on a reservation in North Dakota is attacked. The details of the crime are slow to surface as Geraldine Coutts is traumatized and reluctant to reveal what happened, to the police or to her husband or thirteen-year-old son, Joe. Increasingly alone, Joe finds himself thrust into an adult world for which he is ill prepared. While his father, a tribal judge, endeavors to wrest justice from a situation that defies his efforts, Joe becomes frustrated with the official investigation and sets out with his trusted friends to get answers of his own.

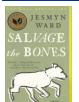
Russian Winter by Daphne Kalotay



A mysterious jewel holds the key to a life-changing secret, in this tale of love and art, betrayal and redemption. When she decides to auction her remarkable jewelry collection, Nina Revskaya, believes she has finally drawn a curtain on her past. Instead, the former ballerina finds herself overwhelmed by memories of her homeland and of the events that changed the course of her life long ago. Two people will not let the past rest: an inquisitive young associate at a Boston auction house and a professor of Russian who believes that a unique set of jewels may hold the key to his own past. Together these unlikely partners

unravel a mystery containing revelations that will have life-altering consequences for them all.

Salvage the Bones by Jesmyn Ward



A hurricane is building over the Gulf of Mexico, threatening the coastal town of Bois Sauvage, Mississippi, and Esch's father is growing concerned. A hard drinker, largely absent, he doesn't show concern for much else. Esch and her three brothers are stocking food, but there isn't much to save. Esch can't keep down what food she gets; she's fourteen and pregnant. Her brother Skeetah is sneaking scraps for his prized pitbull's new litter. Meanwhile, brothers Randall and Junior try to stake their claim in a family long on child's

play and short on parenting. As the twelve days that make up the novel's framework yield to their dramatic conclusion, this unforgettable family pulls itself up to face another day

Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnav



In the Paris of 1942, Sarah, a ten year-old girl, is brutally arrested with her family by the French police in the Vel' d'Hiv' roundup, but not before she locks her younger brother in a cupboard in the family's apartment, thinking that she will be back within a few hours. In the Paris of 2002, the 60th anniversary of Vel' d'Hiv, journalist Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article about this black day in France's past. Through her investigation she stumbles onto a trail of family secrets that connect her to Sarah. She begins to question her own place in France and reevaluate her marriage and her life. A brilliantly subtle portrait of France under

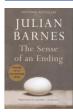
occupation, the novel reveals the silence that surround this painful episode in history.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd



Set in the American South in 1964, the year of the Civil Rights Act and intensifying racial unrest, *The Secret Life of Bees* is a powerful story of coming-of-age, of the ability of love to transform our lives, and the often unacknowledged longing for the universal feminine divine. Addressing the wounds of loss, betrayal, and the scarcity of love, Kidd demonstrates the power of women coming together to heal those wounds, to mother each other and themselves, and to create a sanctuary of true family and home.

The Sense of an Ending by Julian Barnes



Tony Webster, a middle-aged man, contends with a past he never thought much about—until his closest childhood friends return with a vengeance: one of them from the grave, another maddeningly present. Tony thought he left this all behind as he built a life for himself, and his career has provided him with a secure retirement and an amicable relationship with his exwife and his daughter. But when presented with a mysterious legacy, he is forced to revise his estimation of his own nature and place in the world.

The Shipping News by Annie Proulx



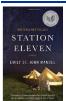
In this touching and atmospheric novel set among the fishermen of Newfoundland, Proulx tells the story of Quoyle. From all outward appearances, Quoyle has gone through his first 36 years on earth as a big schlump of a loser. He's not attractive, he's not brilliant or witty or talented, and he's not the kind of person who typically assumes the central position in a novel. But Proulx creates a compelling tale of Quoyle's psychological and spiritual growth.

Some Luck by Jane Smiley



On their farm in Denby, Iowa, Rosanna and Walter Langdon abide by time-honored values that they pass on to their five wildly different children: from Frank, the handsome, willful first born, and Joe, whose love of animals and the land sustains him, to Claire, who earns a special place in her father's heart. Each chapter in the novel covers a single year, beginning in 1920, as American soldiers like Walter return home from World War I, and going up through the early 1950s, with the country on the cusp of enormous social and economic change.

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel



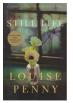
Kirsten Raymonde will never forget the night Arthur Leander had a heart attack on stage during a production of *King Lear*. That was the night a devastating flu pandemic arrived in the city, and within weeks, civilization as we know it came to an end. Twenty years later, Kirsten moves between settlements of the altered world with a small troupe of actors and musicians. As the story takes off, moving back and forth in time, vividly depicting life before and after the pandemic, the strange twist of fate that connects them all will be revealed.

Still Alice by Lisa Genova



Alice Howland is proud of the life she worked so hard to build. At fifty years old, she's a cognitive psychology professor at Harvard and a world-renowned expert in linguistics with a successful husband and three grown children. When she becomes increasingly disoriented and forgetful, a tragic diagnosis changes her life—and her relationship with her family and the world—forever. At once beautiful and terrifying, *Still Alice* is a moving and vivid depiction of life with early-onset Alzheimer's.

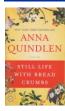
Still Life by Louise Penny



Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Surêté du Québec and his team of investigators are called to the scene of a suspicious death in a rural village south of Montreal. Jane Neal, a local fixture in the tiny hamlet of Three Pines, just north of the U.S. border, has been found dead in the woods. Locals are certain it's a tragic hunting accident, but Gamache smells something foul in these remote woods, and is soon certain that Jane Neal died at the hands of someone much more sinister than a careless bow hunter. *Still Life* introduces an engaging series hero in

Inspector Gamache, who commands his forces with integrity and quiet courage.

Still Life with Bread Crumbs by Anna Quindlen



A "marvelous romantic comedy of errors" (*The New York Times Book Review*), *Still Life with Bread Crumbs* begins with an imagined gunshot and ends with a new tin roof. Between the two is a wry and knowing portrait of Rebecca Winter, a photographer whose work made her an unlikely heroine for many women. Her career is now descendant, her bank balance is shaky, and she has fled the city for the middle of nowhere. There she discovers, in a tree stand with a roofer named Jim Bates, that what she sees through a camera lens is not all there is to life.

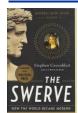
The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin



A. J. Fikry, the irascible owner of Island Books, has recently endured some tough years: his wife has died, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and his prized possession — a rare edition of Poe poems — has been stolen. He has given up on people, and even the books in his store, instead of offering solace, are yet another reminder of a world that is changing too rapidly. Then a most unexpected occurrence gives him the chance to make his life over and see things anew. Gabrielle Zevin's enchanting novel is a love letter to the world

of books — an irresistible affirmation of why we read, and why we love.

The Swerve by Stephen Greenblatt



An innovative work of history and a thrilling story of discovery, in which one manuscript, plucked from a thousand years of neglect, changed the course of human thought and made possible the world as we know it. Nearly six hundred years ago, a man took a very old manuscript off a library shelf, saw with excitement what he had discovered, and ordered that it be copied. That book was the last surviving manuscript of an ancient Roman philosophical epic, *On the Nature of Things*, by Lucretius. The copying and translation of this ancient book fueled the Renaissance; shaped the thought of Galileo and Freud, Darwin and Einstein; and

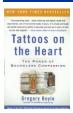
had a revolutionary influence on writers such as Montaigne, Shakespeare and even Thomas Jefferson.

Tallgrass by Sandra Dallas



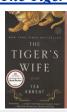
Soon after Pearl Harbor, the U.S. government rounded up Japanese residents of the West Coast and shipped them off to "internment camps" for the duration of the war. One of the camps is Tallgrass, based on an actual Colorado camp. The discomforts and indignities these (mostly) American citizens had to endure are viewed through the eyes of a young girl who lives on a nearby farm, Rennie Stroud. Rennie's love of family slowly extends itself to the Japanese house and field helpers the Strouds receive permission to hire.

Tattoos on the Heart by Gregory Boyle



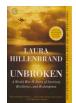
For twenty years Gregory Boyle has run Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program located in Los Angeles, the gang capital of the world. In *Tattoos on the Heart* he distills his experience working in the ghetto into a breathtaking series of parables inspired by faith. Arranged by theme and filled with humor and generosity, these essays about universal kinship and redemption are moving examples of the power of unconditional love and the importance of fighting despair.

The Tiger's Wife by Téa Obreht



In a Balkan country mending from war, Natalia, a young doctor, is compelled to unravel the mysterious circumstances surrounding her beloved grandfather's recent death. Searching for clues, she turns to his worn copy of *The Jungle Book* and the stories he told her of his encounters over the years with "the deathless man." But most extraordinary of all is the story that her grandfather never told her—the legend of the tiger's wife.

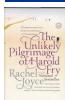
Unbroken: a World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand



In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a talent that carried him to the Berlin Olympics. When World War II began, the athlete became an airman. In May of 1943 when his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds Zamperini survived, adrift on a life raft. Ahead of him lay miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would

answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will.

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce



Harold Fry, recently retired, lives in a small English village with his wife, Maureen, who seems irritated by almost everything he does. Little differentiates one day from the next. Then one morning a letter arrives, addressed to Harold in a shaky scrawl, from a woman he hasn't heard from in twenty years. Queenie Hennessy is in hospice and is writing to say goodbye. But before Harold mails off a quick reply a chance encounter convinces him that he absolutely must deliver his message to Queenie in person. Determined to walk six hundred miles to the

hospice, Harold believes that as long as he walks, Queenie will live.

Where'd You Go, Bernadette by Maria Semple



Bernadette Fox is notorious. To her Microsoft-guru husband, she's a fearlessly opinionated partner; to fellow private-school mothers in Seattle, she's a disgrace; to design mavens, she's a revolutionary architect, and to 15-year-old Bee, she is a best friend and, simply, Mom. Then Bernadette disappears. To find her mother, Bee compiles email messages, official documents, and secret correspondence—creating a compulsively readable and touching novel about misplaced genius and a mother and daughter's role in an absurd world.

Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail by Cheryl Strayed



At twenty-two, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. In the wake of her mother's death, her family scattered and her own marriage was soon destroyed. Four years later, with nothing more to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life. With no experience or training, driven only by blind will, she would hike more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington State—and she would do it alone. Told with suspense and style, sparkling with warmth and humor, *Wild*

powerfully captures the terrors and pleasures of one young woman forging ahead on a journey that maddened, strengthened, and ultimately healed her.

The Worst Hard Time by Timothy Egan



Egan tells how America's great, grassy plains turned to dust, and how the ferocious plains winds stirred up an endless series of "black blizzards" that were like a biblical plague. "Dust clouds boiled up, ten thousand feet or more in the sky, and rolled like moving mountains" in what became known as the Dust Bowl. But the plague was man-made, as Egan shows: the plains weren't suited to farming, and plowing up the grass to plant wheat, along with a confluence of economic disaster-the Depression-and natural disaster-eight years of drought-

resulted in an ecological and human catastrophe that Egan details with stunning specificity.

The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman



Diane Ackerman tells the remarkable WWII story of Jan Zabinski, the director of the Warsaw Zoo, and his empathetic wife, Antonina. With courage and coolheaded ingenuity, these individuals sheltered 300 Jews and Polish resisters in their villa and in animal cages and sheds. Using Antonina's diaries, other contemporary sources and her own research in Poland, the author takes us into the Warsaw ghetto, the 1943 Jewish uprising, and the Poles' revolt against Nazi occupiers in 1944.